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# NEWSLETTER

A Bimonthly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

October/November 1992

Volume 10, Number 5

## Distinguished Scholar Is New ERS Job Designation

ERS Administrator John Lee announced the formation of a new, special job designation—ERS Distinguished Scholar—at the ERS luncheon during the 1992 AAEA annual meeting in Baltimore, Md.

ERS distinguished scholars are ERS employees who have, over a long term and on an ongoing basis, distinguished themselves among professional peers. An ERS distinguished scholar may be an economist, sociologist, demographer, historian, operations researcher, or one who excels in any other two-interval series.

The title, "ERS Distinguished Scholar," is more than just honorary. Upon award of the distinguished scholar designation, the individual's job description will be revised, if necessary, to assure maximum flexibility for innovative and relevant research and analysis in a high-level nonadministrative position. In addition, the ERS Administrator's Office will provide support for research assistance to the distinguished scholar.

Anyone, inside or outside of ERS, may nominate an individual to be an ERS distinguished scholar. To be eligible for nomination, the candidate must be a current ERS employee or a committed recruit for an ERS position; be in a GS/GM-15 or senior level position; and have at least 15 years of post-graduate professional experience. Nominations require documentation of the nominee's distinction among

## Calvin Beale Is First ERS Distinguished Scholar

Calvin Beale was named the first "ERS Distinguished Scholar" by Administrator John Lee at the ERS luncheon held during the annual AAEA meeting in Baltimore, Md. Beale is ERS's senior and much-honored demographer who is renowned for his chronicling and analysis of changing population and socio-economic patterns in rural America.

Administrator Lee said that Calvin Beale won unanimous support from selecting officials because "... he epitomizes what we are looking for in a person deserving to be designated an ERS distinguished scholar." Beale was presented a framed certificate with the citation "In due recognition of his longstanding and distinguished contributions to the field of demography in furtherance of the missions of the agency and the United States Department of Agriculture." John Lee presented the certificate to Beale after reading the following statement by his colleague David McGranahan:

Calvin Beale is a man of unbounded curiosity with an unparalleled knowledge of rural America—a Renaissance man. A visit to his office will often find him poring over Census county data, jotting down one and another number. Other times he is found on the highway visiting one county or another. These forays deepen his knowledge of the diversity of rural people and places, yet allow him to identify broad truths. Beale was the first person to recognize the rural turnaround of the 1970's and early to understand its demise in the early 1980's. For most honors and awards, we recognize people for their past achievements. In naming a distinguished scholar, we anticipate future contributions as well. Rather than summarize Beale's accomplishments—ably demonstrated in *A Taste of the Country*, a book of his writings edited by Peter Morrison—I want to dwell on current endeavors that show he is a scholar of remarkable breadth and depth and of truly national stature.

This year Beale has received several invitations to speak or write, only some of which he has been able to accept. A group of European anthropologists asked him to present a paper on



peers, as evidenced by professional honors and awards, broad recognition and high repute, measures of impact of the nominee's accomplishments, and/or letters of support from esteemed

members of the nominee's professional community. Acceptance of a nomination requires the unanimous approval of all seven ERS senior executives.

New ERS distinguished scholars will be announced at the ERS luncheon during the AAEA annual

meeting held in the year of an individual's approved nomination. Nominations may be made at any time, but must be received by the ERS Administrator no later than June 1 of the year in which an award of the job designation may be made.

## Calvin Beale Is First ERS Distinguished Scholar

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American triracial groups at their conference next winter. The Rural Studies Center wants him to write a chapter on the geography of rural poverty for a book they are editing. He discussed proposals to the Bureau of the Census for new definitions of rural and urban at the Rural Sociological Society meeting. He represents USDA on the Federal Executive Committee on Metropolitan Areas, which gives him a unique vantage on issues of rural-urban definition. Beale will also speak at the Southern Demographic Association meeting on the location of new prisons and rural population growth. His publications during the past year include an article on rural fertility in *Rural Sociology*, and three articles on changes in the rural age structure, population change, and black farmers. His speaking engagements on general rural trends include the Washington Journalism Center, several national associations, USDA's Soil Conservation Service, and a conference of planners.

Journalists often use Beale as a source, not only for the breadth and depth of his knowledge but also for the pithiness of the quotes they can get. Rural America is rarely a national topic, but this past year his observations could be found in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *USA Today*, and the *Des Moines Register*, to name a few.

Beale's quote on the rural dilemma captures at once his eye for telling detail and his understanding of broad truths: "Outside the small town of Galesville, Wisconsin, a billboard proclaims, 'WELCOME TO GALESVILLE, the Garden of Eden, Industry Invited.' Here in a nutshell, the basic modern dilemma of rural America is expressed. On the one hand there is the ardent assertion of the idyllic, fulfilling quality that life in a small community can have, but then tempered by the necessity to invite the serpent of industry into the garden if people are to have the means to live there."

## ERS Adopts Part-Time Policy

As part of ongoing efforts to assist employees in balancing the demands of work and home, ERS has adopted a policy on part-time employment. Although ERS staff have worked part time in the past, the new policy statement makes clear that ERS management sees this added flexibility as having the potential to contribute to the agency's success in carrying out its mission.

The policy lays out the factors supervisors need to consider in determining whether a job can be made part time. This added flexibility places more responsibility on supervisors. However, it also gives them the opportunity to think creatively about how they structure their unit's activities. And it has the potential to increase productivity and job satisfaction while lowering turnover and absenteeism.

The part-time policy applies to permanent career or career conditional employees. The factors supervisors and managers are asked to consider in deciding whether or not a position can be made part time are ERS mission and occupational mix; work fluctuations and special staffing needs; size or work force turnover rate and employment trends; potential for improving service to the public; potential for enhancing affirmative action; current or potential employees' interest in part-time; and, personnel ceiling and fiscal constraints. Considering all these factors should enable the supervisor to balance sometimes-conflicting concerns and to develop a staffing arrangement which will serve both ERS and the individual.

### ERS Newsletter

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In the last ERS Newsletter, John Lee identified the need for institutional change. Now, we find ourselves adjusting to an ERS budget cut at the same time we pursue ERS relevancy in a rapidly changing and increasingly demanding environment. This situation is not new for public agricultural research institutions. Many of our university cooperators have been facing it and all indications are that a downsized agricultural research enterprise will be the rule rather than the exception in coming years.

One troubling irony seems to be emerging: While strong leadership and able management are most critical in periods of budgetary stress, it is during such periods that the incentives to draw good people into management and administration are perceived to be less than during periods of expansion. Even in the best of times, there appears to be some professional bias against a management career path. We tend to admire professional accomplishment in tangible and scholarly forms such as publications. We are less comfortable recognizing how an individual's management and administrative skills can contribute to the productivity of others. No question about it, a manager who has demonstrated a high level of personal accomplishment in the technical aspects of the profession will find it easier to command the attention and respect that is necessary for people to follow his or her lead. But good technical skills, while necessary, are neither a good indicator of managerial capability nor a sufficient condition for successful leadership. At issue is how we recruit, reward, and retain technically competent people who are willing and able to shift a greater portion of their energy to institutional agendas and other people's productivity.

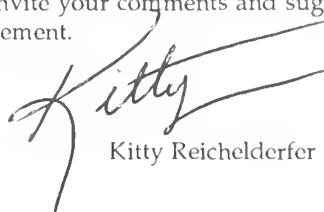
In ERS, the issue is complicated by the fact that we have gained increased flexibility to use higher grade levels for analytical positions. While this is a welcomed trend, it has the effect of diminishing the financial incentive to go into management. Now that highly accomplished analysts can more easily achieve the salaries formerly reserved for midlevel managers, some wonder what other incentives exist for them to shift into management? Furthermore, the size of organizational units in ERS is shrinking and many units are comprised almost exclusively of highly motivated, well-trained professionals who can and will produce high quality work with little guidance. Thus, others question the role of and need for midlevel management—section leaders and branch chiefs—in ERS.

In fact, good management is needed more now than ever. Meeting the tests of relevance and broad utility, always a good idea, is absolutely critical when resources are declining. The big need for contemporary management is to channel existing talent into areas of work known to be useful in answering real questions, addressing real problems, and contributing to a comprehensive body of knowledge that a well-identified audience needs or wants. This job is tackled primarily by articulating clear and achievable goals; planning to assure a "big picture" emerges from the combined pieces of work; guiding individuals to help them achieve their maximum potential; and recognizing and rewarding efforts that fulfill articulated goals. Members of even the best and most independent professional staffs are generally grateful for leaders who perform these basic functions. And carrying them out neither needs to nor should take all of an efficient manager's time. For most midlevel managers, some time should remain to continue active participation in analytical tasks.

Management has potentially high intrinsic rewards. For those who like change and want to be a part of it, now is a particularly exciting time to be involved in the management of public agricultural programs. By January 1, 1994, 46 percent of USDA's senior executives will be eligible to retire. In the next few years, close to half of the managerial and administrative positions throughout the State-Federal agricultural system may be vacated. The new leaders who take these positions are likely to represent very different backgrounds and perspectives than their predecessors. And it is they who will be shaping the future of American agriculture.

In ERS, we are taking a new approach to assure that managerial accomplishment is recognized and further rewarded. Current GM positions (grades 13-15) for which the preponderance of effort relates to other than supervisory/coordination/managerial activities will be reclassified as GS positions. No one will lose status or salary in this conversion. (Details are forthcoming in a memo to all staff.) But, differentiating managers from more senior analysts will facilitate assessment and reward for performance in precisely the job for which an individual has been hired.

John Lee and I are proud of the many fine leaders that ERS has produced and is now fostering. We will continue to seek and take advantage of appropriate management training and leadership development opportunities for all eligible staff. I sincerely invite your comments and suggestions on how we can further encourage, recognize, and reward good management.



Kitty  
Kitty Reichelderfer

## USDA's ERS and RDA Cooperate on State Rural Development Councils

ERS is cooperating with USDA's Rural Development Administration to provide financial, research, and information support for the State rural development councils. The State rural development councils are the key element of the President's Initiative on Rural America. The purpose of the councils is to prepare and implement State-level rural development strategies. The councils are made up of representatives from Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and representatives from the private and nonprofit sectors. Eight States participated in the pilot State Council Program in fiscal year 1991, and all 50 States and 5 territories are expected to form councils.

ERS will assist the councils by providing data and analysis for formulating and evaluating rural development strategies. ERS staff will also work with in-State researchers through cooperative agreements to gain a better understanding of rural development problems and opportunities and to relate research and analysis to national and State rural development strategy issues. Thomas Rowley (202-219-0542) is coordinating the work.

## ERS Staff Participate in AAEA Annual Meeting

ERS was well represented at the annual meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association in Baltimore, Md., August 9-12. The following ERS staff were on the program:

*Selected paper authors:* Mary Ahearn, Carlos Arnade (2), Ronald Babula, Donald Blayney, James Blaylock, Noel Blisard, Boyd Buxton, Robert Collender, Stephen Crutchfield (2), Stan Daberkow, Roy Darwin, Hisham El-Osta (2), Richard Fallert, Jorge Fernandez-Cornejo, George Frisvold (2), Mark Giordano, Verner Grise, LeRoy

Hansen (2), Daniel Hellerstein, Kim Hjort, Robert House, Hsin-Hui Hsu, Kuo Huang, John Jinkins, Barry Krissoff (2), Bruce Larson, Chinkook Lee, David Letson, Biing-Hwan Lin, Arun Malik (2), William McBride, Richard Nehring (2), Michael Ollinger, Tim Osborn, Wayne Park, Mark Peters, Ricardo Quiroga, Albert Reed, Marc Ribaudo, Donna Roberts, Michelle Robinson, Stacey Rosen, Shade Sangosina, Gerald Schluter, Parveen Setia, Shahla Shapouri, Jerry Sharples, Robbin Shoemaker, Agapi Somwaru (2), Amy Sparks, James Stout, Fawzi Taha, Shwu-Eng Webb (2), David Westenbarger, Darryl Wills, and Jet Yee.

*Symposia organizers, moderators, presenters, and discussants:* Linda Calvin, Nancy Cochrane, Robert Collender (2), Stan Daberkow (2), James Duffield (2), Kenneth Forsythe, Gregory Gajewski (3), Kenneth Gray (2), Linwood Hoffman, Doyle Johnson, David Kelch, Robert Kellogg, Betsey Kuhn, Peter Liapis, Biing-Huan Lin, Ralph Monaco, Lester Myers, Renata Penn, Peter Riley, Tanya Roberts (2), Nina Swann, Ann Vandeman, Utpal Vasavada, and Mark Wenner.

*Session presider:* John Lee (2).

*Session organizers, moderators, and presenters:* Jorge Fernandez-Cornejo, Joy Harwood, Martin Johnson, David Kelch, Barry Krissoff, Bradley McDonald, John Miranowski, Bob Robinson, Robbin Shoemaker, Amy Sparks, Thomas Vollrath, and Arthur Wiese.

*Free session facilitators, presenters, and panel participants:* Alan Bird, Praveen Dixit, Tracy Dunbar, Douglas Duncan, William Kost, Carol Kramer (2), John Lee, and Patrick O'Brien.

*Poster paper authors:* Donald Bellamy, Philip Brent, Samuel Calhoun, Ram Chandran, Robert Dubman, Russ Keim, Robert Kellogg (2), Renata Penn, Janet Perry, David Shank, Ann Vandeman, George Wallace, Mark Wenner, and Gerald Whittaker.

Marca Weinberg received the AAEA Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award.

## ERS Cosponsors Chinese Agricultural Development Conference

ERS staff participated in a conference on "Prospects for Chinese Agricultural Development in the 1990's" in Beijing, China, August 20-25. The conference, cosponsored by the American Agricultural Economics Association, the Rural Economics Society of China, and the Agricultural Economics Association of China, was partially funded by ERS. About 70 economists from the United States, over 30 from Taiwan, and 30 from China participated. One objective of the conference was to provide a venue for economists from China to interact with their counterparts from Taiwan.

ERS participants presented papers on three central themes: the environment, agricultural policy, and food consumption behavior. The issues were addressed in the context of the importance of China in international agricultural trade. ERS participants included Harry Baumes, Frederick Crook, Praveen Dixit, Kenneth Hanson, Bob Robinson, Francis Tuan, Alan Webb, and Shwu-Eng Webb. Francis Tuan was also elected chairman of the AAEA China Committee.

Conference speakers had differing views on the prospects for Chinese agriculture in the 1990's. Some felt that China does not have a grain production problem and will likely reach the targeted 500 million tons by the year 2000. On the other hand, a majority of the other speakers felt that grain self-sufficiency will be a problem for China in the next century. All, however, agreed that policy reform emphasizing market orientation would improve prospects for agriculture development in the 1990's, and that importing grain should not be viewed as a problem in itself.

## ERS Staff Participate in Federal Forecasters Conference

"Forecasting and Total Quality Management" was the theme of the annual Federal Forecasters Conference cosponsored by ERS, in Washington, D.C., September 17. About 250 people representing over 30 agencies attended the conference. The conference provided an opportunity for forecasters in the Federal Government to gather and exchange ideas.

Assistant secretary for economics Daniel Sumner welcomed the audience to USDA, and Barbara Bryant, Director, Bureau of the Census, gave the keynote address. Both spoke of the importance of answering the questions, "Who is the customer?" and "What are the customer's needs?" A panel of senior-level managers discussed total quality management (TQM) and forecasting at their agencies. Thirty-five technical papers were presented in the concurrent sessions and 11 agencies participated in the poster session.

ERS authors dominated the awards for the best papers presented at last year's conference. Karl Gertel and Linda Atkinson won the best paper award for "Structural Models and Some Automated Alternatives for Forecasting Farmland Prices." Of the four runner-up papers, three were also from ERS.

ERS staff presenting papers and organizing and chairing sessions included Jennifer Beattie, Karen Hamrick, John Kitchen, Stephen MacDonald, Douglas Maxwell, Ralph Monaco, Paul Sundell, and Frederic Surls.

Honorable mentions for the 1992 forecasting contest (forecasting the unemployment rate, the prime rate, the price of corn, the high temperature, and the Orioles' win record) included Robert Gibbs, John Kitchen, Timothy Parker, and Ronald Trostle. Michael Lahr won a special award for the most

courageous forecast—the first one received.

Karen Hamrick and Douglas Maxwell represented ERS on the organizing committee. Copies of the 1992 *Federal Forecasters Directory* are available from Karen Hamrick (202-219-0782). The conference proceedings will be available early in 1993.

ERS and the following U.S. Government agencies cosponsored the 1992 conference: Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; Bureau of Health Professions, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor; Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior; Central Intelligence Agency; Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy; Environmental Protection Agency; and National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

## ERS Staff Participate in Rural Sociology Meetings

### *International Rural Sociology Association*

"Rural Society in the Changing World Order" was the theme of the 8th World Congress for Rural Sociology at Pennsylvania State University, Aug. 11-16.

Fred Gale, Neal Peterson, and Deborah Tootle presented papers.

### *Rural Sociological Society*

"Rurality and the Global Environment" was the theme of the Rural Sociological Society's annual meeting at Pennsylvania State University, Aug. 16-19.

Paul Frenzen, Robert Hoppe, Denise Rogers, and Gene Wunderlich presented papers.

Calvin Beale participated in a panel discussion.

## Reference Center Plans ERS Collection

ERS's Reference Center is compiling a special collection of writings by ERS staff and retirees. The collection includes a broad range of titles such as historical publications written when ERS was known as the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, biographies of ERS staff, writings about ERS, writings by ERS staff published by outside sources, and workshop and conference proceedings.

Because of the special nature of the collection, all material will be catalogued for "Reference Use" only. A display case with recent donations will be located near the elevator on the lower level. Contact D.J. Fusonie or Barbara Baker (202-219-0724) to donate writings.



## Heimlich Is New RTD Geographic Information Systems Coordinator

Ralph Heimlich was recently named Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator, a newly created senior economist position in the Resource Policy Branch, Resources and Technology Division. He will oversee development of GIS systems and datasets, help RTD researchers develop applications using spatial economics, and

maintain liaison with other agencies and researchers using GIS.

Heimlich joined ERS as a research assistant at the Broomall, Pa., field office in 1977 while finishing graduate studies and became a full-time employee in 1979. He worked on the economics of soil erosion and water quality for cooperative river basin studies at Broomall and at Cornell University. In 1984, Heimlich joined the Land Branch. He was named leader of the Resource Use and Capital Investment Section in 1990. During 1991/92, Heimlich was in the Agricultural Policy Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He has studied highly erodible cropland, wetlands, urbanization, and grazing lands issues and contributed to conservation policy research for the 1985 and 1990 farm legislation. Most of Heimlich's research has had a spatial component, particularly concerning the economic implications of

resource variation, and he has experience with computer mapping applications.

Heimlich has a B.A. in economics from Stanford University and an M.A. in regional science and a Master of City Planning degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He has received six ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards for characterizing highly erodible land, communicating wetlands policy changes to nontraditional audiences, contributing to ERS' consistency study, conservation program evaluation, situation and outlook effort, and research and communication on the role of agriculture and agricultural policy in wetlands preservation, and a USDA Superior Service Award for research that contributes to economic understanding of the environmental and natural resource dimensions of farm policy.

## Presidential Management Interns in ERS

ERS's Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division has three Presidential management interns. The intern program, under separate recruiting and hiring authority, places recent Master's graduates with managerial potential in 2-year assignments with various government agencies. The agencies assure that the assignments will develop skills in at least three administrative areas such as budget, personnel, and information management. These skills can be transferred to planning and implementing programs in any management position and are in addition to particular technical responsibilities of the positions. The interns work with a mentor in addition to their supervisor and have reviews every 6 months to

evaluate fulfillment of their detailed development plans.

The program requires interns to attend residential seminars on public administration at the beginning, middle, and end of their internships. Elizabeth Jones (University of Texas), who is working on Western Europe agriculture and trade issues, attended the recent orientation seminar. The conference introduces interns to the career development groups that they will work with throughout the program and includes sessions on communication

skills, workforce diversity, and teambuilding. Sharon Sheffield (Columbia University), who analyzes agricultural trade in the former U.S.S.R., and Daniel Plunkett (American University), who covers commodities and trade in the European Community, attended the mid-program residential seminar for the 250 interns of the 1991 class. Topics covered included conflict resolution, stress management, and ethics in government.

### Agriculture and Rural Economy Division

At a National Agricultural Cost of Production Standards Review Board meeting, in Washington, D.C., **Mary Ahearn** spoke on the cost of production estimation workshop sponsored by AAEA; **Robert Dismukes** and **William McBride** spoke on how cost of production data are organized, used, and disseminated; **James Johnson** spoke on the Farm Costs and Returns Survey; and **Mitchell Morehart** presented a paper, "National Agricultural Cost of Production: Where We Are Today and Future Challenges" • **Morehart** also spoke on ERS's Farm Costs and Returns Survey at Rutgers University • **Ronald Babula** and

**Gerald Schluter** discussed research on improving the competitiveness of western Canada red meat industries with a researcher from the University of Manitoba • **Douglas Bowers** and **Lowell Dyson** discussed Federal relief programs for the 1930 and 1980 droughts with a researcher from Kitami University • **Robert Collender** and **Steven Koenig** participated in a U.S. Information Agency Worldnet telecast on financial policy issues and design of institutions serving agriculture, in Washington, D.C. • **Collender**, **Laura Geis**, and **Jerry Stam** participated in a Farm Credit System Assistance Board meeting to

review the financial status of assisted institutions, in Washington, D.C. • **Kenneth Deavers** and **David McGranahan** participated in an Aspen Institute workshop on developing manufacturing networks, in Aspen, Colo. • **Ron Durst** spoke on the effects of a proposal that would increase the value of the blenders tax credit to encourage the use of ethanol to produce ethyl tertiary butyl ether at an OMB-sponsored meeting, in Washington, D.C. • and **Annica Jansen** traveled to Minnesota and South Dakota to interview Native American-operated casino personnel.

### Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division

At a Western Agriculture Economics Association meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., **Mary Burfisher** presented a paper, "Agricultural and Food Policies in a U.S.-Mexico Free Trade Area"; **Stacey Rosen** presented a paper, "Food Security and Macroeconomic Policy Reform in Kenya"; and **David Stallings** presented a paper, "Money Can Grow on Trees" • **Harry Baumes** and **Larry Deaton** participated in a Working Party on Agricultural Policy and Markets meeting at OECD in Paris, France • **Brian D'Silva** traveled to London, to meet with market intervention specialists and U.S. Agency for International Development officials located in Nairobi on the cash transfer project • **Kim Hjort** traveled to Brussels, Belgium, to discuss agricultural sector modeling with EC Commission officials • **William Liefert** spoke on the current status of agricultural food economies in the republics of the former U.S.S.R. at an Illinois Farm Bureau meeting, in Spirit Lake,

Iowa • **Mary Lisa Madell** traveled to the United Kingdom, Belgium, and France, and **Ann Seitzinger** traveled to the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Germany, to meet with farmers on their response to recent reforms of the European Communities' Common Agricultural Policy • **Margaret Missiaen** traveled to Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Benin, and the Ivory Coast, to collect information and to evaluate the factors affecting grain marketing • **Edward Overton** traveled to Managua, Nicaragua, to discuss an institution-building proposal with USDA's FAS attaché and Nicaraguan officials • **John Parker** traveled to Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt, to collect information on grain quality factors and other Middle East marketing problems • **Bob Robinson** presented a paper, "The Impact of Trade Liberalizations on World Fertilizer Demand," at a South Carolina Fertilizer and Agrochemicals Association meeting, in Hilton Head, S.C. • **Robinson**

also chaired a session, "Implication of Industry Structure and Firm Strategy for International Competitiveness," at an International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium meeting on competitiveness in international food markets, in Annapolis, Md. • **Shahla Shapouri** traveled to Lesotho and Pretoria, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, to work with the Ministries of Agriculture and to collect data and information on agricultural development and policy reform • **Francis Urban** spoke on methods of evaluating emergency food needs at a U.S. Agency for International Development seminar on Niger's food security early warning system, in Kollo, Niger • and **Alan Webb** and **Karl Gudmunds** (DSC) traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to meet with officials of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on development of a microcomputer-based commodity information and analysis system.

## Commodity Economics Division

**Edward Allen** presented a paper, "Wheat Outlook," at a Great Plains and Western States Outlook Conference, in Park City, Utah • **Peter Buzzanell** toured the Domino sugar refinery in Baltimore, Md. • **Linda Calvin** moderated a session, "The Evolution of U.S.-Mexico Agricultural Trade: Conceptual Issues and Empirical Evidence," at a Western Agricultural Economics Association meeting, in Colorado Springs, Colo. • **Nathan Childs** toured Richland Foods rice mills, in Stuttgart, Ark. • **Lee Christensen, Linwood Hoffman, and Shayle Shagam** traveled to Warsaw, Poland, to work on the Eastern Europe institution-building project • **Christensen** also participated in a National Broiler Council marketing seminar, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. • **Annette Clauson** presented a paper, "USDA's Sugar Cost of Production and Performance Review," at an International Sweetener Symposium, in Maui, Hawaii • **Clauson** also traveled to Beaverton, Oregon, to meet with the American Sugarbeet Growers Association Ad Hoc Committee on Cost of Production • **Philip Colling and Bruce Wright** traveled to Colorado, Kansas, and Texas, to interview staff of grain and livestock marketing firms on contracting and vertical integration practices for agricultural commodities • **Terry Crawford** traveled to Mexico to assess the long-term supply response of Mexican livestock production to liberalization of trade between the U.S. and Mexico • **Dennis Dunham** presented a paper, "Outlook for Food Supplies and Prices," at a Food Media-sponsored meeting, in San Francisco, Calif. • **Gregory Gajewski** participated in a sustainable agriculture symposium sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts, in Memphis, Tenn. • **Edward Glade** presented a paper, "Improved Cotton Quality

Measures and Relationships to Marketing," at an Engineered Fiber Selection Conference, in Memphis, Tenn. • **Lewrene Glaser** presented a paper, "Using Economics to Examine the Feasibility of Producing Industrial Materials from Renewable Commodities," at a Kansas State Legislature meeting, in Topeka, Kans. • **Verner Grise** was interviewed by CNN-TV on trends in consumption and exports of cigarettes • **Ronald Gustafson and Leland Southard** spoke on the cattle and hog outlook and situation at an American Feed Industry Association meeting, in Arlington, Va. • **William Hahn** presented a paper, "The North American Trade Model for Animal Products," at a University of California seminar, in Davis • **Shannon Hamm** coordinated a USDA NASS/ERS meeting in Kennett Square, Pa., to discuss changes to the NASS mushroom report • **Charles Handy** presented a paper, "Foreign Direct Investment in Food Manufacturing Industries" (coauthored with Dennis Henderson, Ohio State University), at an International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium Symposium, in Annapolis, Md. • **Doyle Johnson** presented a paper, "Trends and Projections in African and International Trade of Horticultural Products," at a USAID Andro Convention, in Baltimore, Md. • **Johnson** was also interviewed by AP, CNN, and *U.S. News and World Report* on the U.S. horticulture industry • **Ronald Lord** spoke on the outlook for the world sugar market at a World Bank seminar, in Washington, D.C. • **James Miller** presented a paper, "World and Domestic Dairy Situation and Outlook," at a California Creamery Operator Association meeting, in Lake Tahoe, Nev. • **Lester Myers** presented a paper, "Advertising Effectiveness Study Objectives, 1992," at a National Dairy Board meeting, in Denver, Colo. • **Kenneth Nelson** represented ERS at a Food Safety Research

Workshop for Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Research, in Washington, D.C. • **Tanya Roberts** presented a paper, "Do Cooperatives Have a Comparative Advantage in Reducing Farm-Level Contaminants Such as Drug Residues and Bacteria in Milk Products?" at an NE-165 regional research meeting on new strategic directions for agricultural marketing cooperatives, in Boston, Mass. • **Scott Sanford** traveled to Albany, Ga., to participate in the peanut tour • **Parveen Setia** participated in the Spring wheat tour in North Dakota • **Setia** also traveled to Minneapolis, Minn., to meet with staff at the Minneapolis Grain Exchange on their expectations of the Spring wheat crop • **David Smallwood** discussed the 10-year comprehensive plan for nutrition monitoring at a National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Board meeting, in Washington, D.C. • **Michael Weiss** presented two papers, "Structural Stability of Dynamical Systems" and "Symbolic Dynamics," at a Bureau of Labor Statistics meeting, in Washington, D.C. • **Weiss** presented a paper, "Mathematics in Agricultural Economics: The Theory of Individual Behavior Under Risk," at a Mathematical Association of America meeting, in Andover, Mass. • **Weiss** presented a paper, "The New Dynamics: Nonlinearity, Chaos, and Their Implications for Economics," at a Washington Statistical Society meeting, in Washington, D.C. • **Weiss** was a discussant on nonlinear dynamics and time series at a Western Economic Association meeting, in San Francisco, Calif. • **Weiss** was named visiting lecturer for 1992/93 by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics • and **Weiss** presented a paper, "Economic Change: Gradual or Jumpy? An Introduction to Structural Stability in Economics and Elsewhere," at a Washington Evolutionary Systems Society meeting, in Arlington, Va.

## Resources and Technology Division

Andy Anderson and Nicole Ballenger participated in a public meeting in Washington, D.C., to gather comments from associations, interest groups, and individuals concerned about analyses of soil, water, and related resources covered in the proposed plan of work for USDA's third Resources Conservation Act appraisal

• Margriet Caswell participated in the 1992 AREA Studies Survey Workshop, an activity under the President's Water Quality Initiative, sponsored by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, in Raleigh, N.C. • Caswell, Kelly Day, and Cassandra Klotz represented ERS at an Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee

meeting, in Arlington, Va. • Jan Lewandrowski spoke on adaptation to climate change at an Office of Technology Assessment workshop on "Coping with a Changing Climate," in Washington, D.C. • Zena Cook participated and Richard Magleby presented a paper, "Economic Evaluation of RCWP: Insights Gained, Lessons Learned," at a National Rural Clean Water Program symposium, in Orlando, Fla. • John Michos presented a paper, "Estimating the Value of a Use-Value Assessment," at an International Association of Assessing Officials conference on assessment administration, in St. Louis, Mo. • John Miranowski presented a paper, "How Do

Agricultural Policies and Practices Affect the Environment (United States)?" at the International Policy Council on Agriculture and Trade Conference, in Noordwijk, The Netherlands • Ann Vandeman spoke on employment and internship opportunities at ERS to a graduate class at North Carolina A&T State University, in Greensboro, N.C., and visited with faculty and career placement officials at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C. • and Vandeman also participated in USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service vegetable chemical use survey school, in Raleigh, N.C.

## Data Services Center

Agapi Somwaru presented two papers, "Chemical Use and Modeling Multi-Input, Multi-Output Nonparametric Production Systems" (coauthored with Richard Nehring, RTD) and "Data Envelopment Analysis in Modeling Production of

Undesired Outputs" (coauthored with Richard Nehring, RTD and Knox Lovell, U. of North Carolina) at a Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics meeting, in Los Angeles, Calif. • and Somwaru and Eldon Ball (RTD) have been

awarded an additional year of access to Cornell University's supercomputer for the modeling dynamic resource adjustment intersectional policy and performance project.

## Office of the Administrator

John Lee presented a paper, "Competitiveness of the U.S. Food Sector," at an International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium meeting, in Annapolis, Md. • Lee also led a discussion of "The Economic, Social, and Environmental Consequences of Agricultural Research, Teaching, and Extension," at a Joint Council on the Food and Agricultural Sciences meeting, in New Brunswick, N.J. • Lee participated

in a National Agriculture Credit Committee meeting in Chicago, Ill. • and Katherine Reichelderfer presented a plenary paper, "Macro-Level Factors Affecting Soil and Water Conservation," at a Soil and Water Conservation Society meeting, in Baltimore, Md.; participated in an AAEA Executive Board meeting, in Baltimore, Md.; moderated a roundtable on progress on subregional trade agreements and challenges for the agri-food

sector at an Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture Policy seminar on "Policy Reform and Institutional Changes in the Agri-Food Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean," in Washington, D.C.; and participated in the Agricultural Research Institute's 1992 international conference of agricultural research administrators, in McLean, Va.

*[We invite ERS alumni to write to us at the address on page 2 about what they or other alumni are doing, where they are living, etc.]*

ERS retiree Mary Laura Craven lives at 9200 East Bay Harbor Drive, Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

- and ERS retiree David Wilson died July 28 in Heber City, Utah.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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